

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FREETO 00386 021232Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W
-----004394 030412Z /64
R 021210Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7027

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 0386

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

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EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SL
SUBJECT: SIERRA LEONE AMBASSADOR'S RELATIONS WITH DEPARTMENT

1. IN THE COURSE OF A CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

CONTEH ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, HE SAID HE WISHED TO BE FRANK WITH ME AND TELL ME THAT HE WAS VERY UPSET THAT SIERRA LEONE AMBASSADOR PALMER, HAVING ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOU, WAS PUT OFF AND ADVISED TO SEE A SUBORDINATE OFFICIAL. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAD NOT YET TOLD PRESIDENT STEVENS ABOUT THE INCIDENT.

2. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS MOST SURPRISED BECAUSE AS FAR AS I WAS AWARE AFRICAN AMBASSADORS HAVE NEVER HAD ANY PROBLEMS IN SEEING THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY. I ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT I WOULD RAISE THE QUESTION WITH WASHINGTON, PARTICULARLY TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN.

3. CONTEH WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS WELL AWARE THAT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAD RECEIVED SIERRA LEONEANS OPPOSED TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND THAT HE HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THEIR ACCESS, WHETHER ON A PERSONAL OR BUSINESS BASIS, WAS BETTER THAN THAT OF HIS AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON.

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PAGE 02 FREETO 00386 021232Z

4. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE SOME BACKGROUND ON THIS SITUATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 02 feb 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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